Investment in IT sector

2975. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from the foreign investors to make investment in the Information Technology sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Data on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in regard to Information Technology sector (Sub-sector-wise) for the period from 1.1.2000 to 31.12.2002 is as under:

(Amount in Rs. Million)

Sl. No.	Name of the Sub-sector	All countries
1.	Computer software	Rs. 42,793.56
2.	Electronics	Rs.12,752.17
3.	Computer Hardware	Rs. 262.35
4.	Other (software)	Rs. 622.39

Government is making continuous efforts to make India an attractive destination for FDI in the region by providing an internationally competitive investment climate in terms of policy framework, procedures and institutions. As per the extent policy, FDI upto 100% is permitted on the automate route in IT sector. With sectoral reforms/deregulation, India is gradually emerging as one of the most preferred destinations for investments in the IT sector, including IT enabled services. Many MNCs

such as GE, American Express, Ford. British Airways, etc. have chosen India for back office support services.

In respect of the details of proposals received from the Foreign Multinational companies status of approval and their details like name and Country of foreign collaborator, percentage of equity, items of manufacture, location etc. are published on a monthly basis in SIA newsletter, published by DIPP, which is widely circulated, including to the parliament library and are also available on SIA website www.dipp.nic.in.

Telephone Exchanges in Orissa

2976. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state;

(a) the number of telephone exchanges set up in Orissa;

(b) whether all the exchanges are not connected with optical fibre;

(c) If so, the reasons therefor;

(d) by when all the telephone exchanges working in the State would be connected with optical fibre; and

(e) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The number of Telephone Exchanges set up in Orissa is 1104.

(b) Yes, Sir. Out of the 1104 telephone exchanges, 1074 telephone exchanges are connected with Optical Fibre Cable.

(c) and (d) Based on techno economic considerations, 29 exchanges are connected with reliable microwave system and hence there is no plan to provide OFC connectivity to these exchanges.

(e) It has been planned to provide OFC connectivity to the remaining one exchange by 30-6-2003.